

Appl. No. : 10/550,188  
Amdt. Dated: May 7, 2008  
Reply to Office Action of February 7, 2008

### REMARKS

Claims 35-63 were previously pending in the present application. However, Claim 60 has been cancelled and Claims 64-67 have been added. Accordingly, Claims 35-59 and 61-67 are now pending and at issue.

The Office Action refers to US 6,631,146 (Pontis et al) and US 2001/0021053 (Colborne et al) and finds that all the claims except for claims 47 and 59-61 are obvious in the light of a combination of the acknowledged prior art and Pontis et al or Pontis et al and Colborne et al. Claims 47 and 59-61 are objected to only because they depend from rejected claims so that the independent claims could be rendered patentable, if not otherwise, at least by combining a feature from one of claims 49 and 59-61 with the present independent claims. New claims 64 and 65-67 correspond to current claims 47 and 59-61 but incorporating the features of the claims on which those claims are dependent.

The first paragraph on page 5 of the Office Action refers to formality objections in relation to the specification and the specification herewith has been amended by the insertion of titles. In addition, a discussion of the art which introduced the Disclosure of the Invention in the PCT specification has been moved to the Description of the Related Art.

The second paragraph refers to requirements of the Information Disclosure Statement and we enclose a further Statement including GB 0223448.2.

The paragraph bridging pages 5 and 6 and the first two paragraphs on page 6 of the Office Action raise certain objections to the language of claims 60 and 61. The feature of claim 60 has been added to claim 59 as we understand is suggested by the Examiner and claim 60 has been deleted. Claim 61 has been amended to overcome the objection of a lack of antecedence for the third Airy etalon.

Section 1 of the Office Action objects that claim 63 is directed to non-statutory matter and claim 63 has been amended to seek to overcome the rejection.

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Section 3 of the Office Action on pages 7-15 rejects claims 35-38, 40-41, 48-53 and 62-62 in the light of a combination of the acknowledged prior art of one of the Applicant's earlier application GB 0223448.2 (Donohoe et al) and Pontis et al.

In respect of claims 35-36, 48-49, 58 & 63 the Office Action avers that Donohoe et al discloses all the features of the said claims except for:

periodic optical filters with a finesses of 2 and a free spectral range of 100 GHz,

the synchronised clock measurement means that synchronises output of the first, second, third and fourth optical power measurement means and a clock signal comprising a master module and slave module to trigger measurement and read output of the optical power measurement means.

The Examiner then asserts that Pontis et al discloses all the missing elements except the periodic optical filters with finesses of 2 and a free spectral range of 100 GHz, which the Examiner does not find inventive.

We submit that Pontis et al discloses a laser control system for monitoring and controlling a laser assembly (paragraph [0006]) comprising a tunable laser such as an external cavity laser (paragraph [00019]). Output of the laser may be monitored with one or more photodiodes (paragraph [0021]). A wavelength of the laser assembly may be adjusted by adjusting the optical length of an external cavity, and by means of a grid etalon and a wedge etalon. The sampling of signals associated with thermal sensors, photodiodes and the gain medium of the laser may be performed synchronously with the generation of PWM control signals that drive temperature controllers and a low pass filter to reduce potential noise sources.

We therefore submit that there is no suggestion in Pontis et al of either periodic optical filters with finesses of 2 and a free spectral range of 100 GHz, or a clock signal comprising a master module and slave module to trigger measurement and read output of the optical power measurement means as claimed in claim 35.

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We therefore submit that claim 35, and therefore the claims dependent thereon, are inventive in the light of a combination of Donohoe et al and Pontis et al.

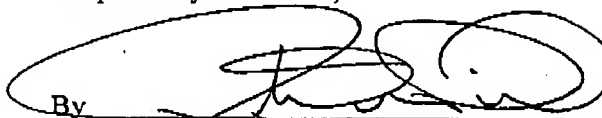
The following paragraphs of the Office Action seek to show that the features of the dependent claims are known or obvious, but since it is submitted that the rejection in respect of the independent claims is overcome these objections become moot.

Section 4 of the Office Action rejects dependent claims 39 and 46 in the light of the acknowledged prior art, Pontis and Colbourne et al, but since it is submitted that the rejections of the independent claims are overcome, these rejections become moot.

In view of the amendments made to the claims, it is respectfully submitted that allowable subject matter has been defined and the Examiner is requested to reconsider his prior art objections.

Accordingly, early allowance of the subject application is earnestly requested. If the Examiner should have any queries, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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